Constitution of Punjab Wakf Board

99. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are not violating the spirit of the Wakf Act by not constituting the Punjab Wakf Board;

(b) whether Government are going to constitute the Board as per Section 14 of the Wakf Act; if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not constituting the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the reorganization of the erstwhile State of Punjab in November, 1966, the Punjab Wakf Board became an inter-state body corporate having jurisdiction in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Chandigarh and is therefore being administered by the Central Government since then. The question of future set-up of the Board has been under active consideration of the Central Government since the enforcement of the Wakf Act, 1995 with effect from 01st January, 1996 and was also discussed in a meeting of Ministers of three States and the Administrator of Union Territory of Chandigarh in August, 1996 where no consensus was arrived at. The matter was reviewed again after the present Government took over and after a detailed and careful consideration of the whole issue in consultation with the State Governments concerned, it has been decided, in principle, to initiate the process of constituting a common Wakf Board for the three States and the UT of Chandigarh under the provisions of section 106 of the Wakf Act, 1995. Since it is provided in the said section that the Common Wakf Board should have at least one representative each of the concerned States as a Member of the Board, the three State Governments and the Union Territory of Chandigarh have been requested to intimate the names of their representatives for the Board. On receipt of this information, further action will be taken in the matter.

(c) Does not arise.

Multi sectoral development plan for minorities

100. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Multi Sectoral Development Plan for Minorities (MSDPM) was launched by Government in 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the said Plan;

(c) whether MSDPM has been extended to Gujarat;

(d) if so, the details of funds released to the State since 1995-96 till date, year-wise; and

(e) the results achieved in the State, so far, under MSDPM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) The Multi-Sectoral Development Plan was launched by the Government in 41 Minority Concentration Districts in 1995-96, Under this scheme the concerned States are required to undertake surveys and prepare project reports through an expert agency in respect of activities conspicuously pursued by the Minorities in these districts with a view to identify the requirement of credit, marketing, training and technological supports etc. for carrying out such activities in a viable way for development and welfare of minorities.

(c) Yes sir, out of 41 Minority Concentration Districts one such district is Kachch in the State of Gujarat.

(d) and (e) The funds released under the scheme to the State of Gujarat is as under:—

Year	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1995-96	1.00
1996-97	Nil
1997-98	Nil
1998-99	3.00

The State Government of Gujarat has been asked to submit project report by the end of December, 1998.